

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method, comprising:
directing a client's request for an information object to an information object repository
without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the
information object repository; and
determining, according to information included in a uniform resource locator (URL)
whether the client is authorized to receive the information object.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information object repository is selected
according to specified performance metrics.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the specified performance metrics comprise
one or more of: average delay from the information object repository to the client, average
processing delays at the information object repository, reliability of a path from the information
object repository to the client, available bandwidth in said path, and loads on the information
object repository.
4. (Original) The method of claims 2 further comprising instructing the information object
repository to obtain a copy of the information object.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the information included in the URL
comprises information identifying the requesting client.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the information included in the URL further comprises information identifying an owner of the information object.
7. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the information included in the URL comprises one or more digital signatures.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the one or more digital signatures identify one or more of: the requesting client, and an owner of the information object.
9. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the information included in the URL is compared with an access list at the information object repository to determine whether the client is authorized to receive the information object.
10. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising denying access to the information object if the client is not authorized to receive the information object, otherwise, returning the information object to the client.
11. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the information included in the URL comprises multiple digital signatures and each digital signature is compared with an access list at the information object repository to determine whether the client is authorized to receive the information object.
12. Claims 12 – 21 (Cancelled)